

JOHN LEWIS
5TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

SENIOR CHIEF DEPUTY
DEMOCRATIC WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

CHAIRMAN,
OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

INCOME SECURITY
AND FAMILY SUPPORT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1005

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
343 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1005
(202) 225-3801
FAX: (202) 225-0351

DISTRICT OFFICE:
THE EQUITABLE BUILDING
100 PEACHTREE STREET, N.W.
SUITE # 1920
ATLANTA, GA 30303
(404) 659-0116
FAX: (404) 331-0947

Statement of Congressman John Lewis
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In Darfur almost half a million people have been killed. Countless women and girls have been raped and abused. And millions more have fled their homes leaving loved ones behind. This terror, this violence, this horrible abuse must end.

We cannot stand by, watch and wait. Almost ten years ago, my home town of Atlanta welcomed some of the Lost Boys, refugees of the civil war in the Sudan. These young men stole our hearts. We hoped that they would live the American dream. We prayed for their families, and we cried for all their suffering and pain. When violence erupted again, the world asked when will this end how many more have to pay this heavy price?

Three years ago, I stood here in front of this embassy with my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus demanding an end to this genocide. I don't understand it. How can a government meant to serve the people turn a blind eye to human suffering? How can those leaders reject humanitarian aid? I don't understand how the world can just stand by and watch the slaughter of innocent victims in Darfur. Haven't we learned the hard lessons of Rwanda and Bosnia, of the Holocaust?

The UN Security Council, the U.S. Congress, the administration, and our global neighbors must be united and they must be clear. We can send no more weapons to a government that is engaged in ethnic cleansing against innocent citizens. The world community must step in. We must use our power to demand that the Sudan chart a course toward peace. We cannot wait. The children of Darfur need peace, and they need it now.